

# SPOKE

## Conestoga College, Kitchener

March 12, 2001

### What's Inside



Lots of colleges claim No. 1 status.

PAGE 3



Conestoga wins a Trillium Award.

PAGE 5



Rec centre to offer rock climbing.

PAGE 11

**COMMENTARY**  
Don't pity this single mother  
PAGE 4

## Accident just a scenario

Staged event has scaffolding crashing down, killing 1 and injuring 1

By Kyla Rowntree

The second accident scenario to permit second-year LASA students the opportunity to use their skills in a real-life situation was conducted on March 7 at Conestoga College's Doon campus.

Students from the LASA program and the journalism, broadcasting, and paramedic programs staged an industrial accident in the Ontario Woodworking Centre's shop.

LASA students who are enrolled in a consolidations exercise course participated in this scenario as private investigators, insurance investigators, security officers, ministry of labour officials, plaintiffs and police officers.

LASA students also played the role of the deceased victim, the injured student and the witness.

Journalism and broadcasting students played the roles of journalists and taped the scenario as official recorders of the event.

The investigations of the accident scenario will culminate in a provincial offences trial, a coroner's inquest and a civil trial. LASA students will participate in different aspects of these trials.

Continued on Page 6



First-year paramedic students Kristen Gilmartin, left and Melissa Klotzin, rush victim Laureen Vickery to the nursing wing for medical attention during the mock industrial emergency, held March 7, at Conestoga College. Students from six different programs took part in the accident simulation that occurred in the woodworking building.

(Photo by Dwight Irwin)

## College's campus in China to offer business, English

By Tammy Somerville

Conestoga College extends its boundaries to the other side of the world after signing an agreement to open a satellite campus with Heilongjiang International Tourism and Business College in Harbin, China.

Conestoga College president John Tibbits was a member of a local delegation that went to China as part of a Team Canada trade mission headed by Prime Minister Jean Chretien Feb. 9 - 18.

Tibbits said although the U.S. is Canada's biggest trading partner, in 20 years it's quite possible China will be.

"It would be very foolish for Canada to ignore 1.2 billion people and we think the partnership we have with them is an excellent one. We think it can be successful."

In a Feb. 13 interview with the CBC Radio One program Metro

Morning in Toronto, Tibbits, who was in Beijing at the time, said internationalizing the college is important because most businesses operate globally and they want to see graduates who have exposure to the international arena.

The partnership offers cultural broadening for students from both institutions.

Beginning post-secondary instruction this year, Heilongjiang College will be divided into two to begin post-secondary instruction this year.

One division of the school will offer traditional Chinese programs to students in their native language.

The second division, to be staffed and operated by Conestoga beginning in September 2001, will initially involve three programs: Basic English (English as a second language/ English language studies), business administration/ accounting or business administra-

tion/ management studies.

Four Conestoga teachers will teach basic English as well as the first two years of the business administration programs.

For the third and final year of the business administration programs, the Chinese students will be at Conestoga's Doon campus, alongside Canadian students completing the same program. They will replace students whose seats will become vacant through attrition.

The first Heilongjiang College students are expected to arrive at Conestoga for their final year of study in September 2004.

In a Feb. 24 interview with the Kitchener Record, Tibbits said the partnership is not only beneficial for financial reasons. The lives of Canadian students will be enriched as they learn about other cultures, values and belief systems studying with people from other countries.

Continued on Page 2

## Human rights a campus issue

By Tammy Somerville

Despite an Amnesty International report condemning the Chinese government for permitting torture by police and other state employees released during the Team Canada Trade Mission to China, Conestoga's president John Tibbits signed an agreement with Heilongjiang International Tourism and Business College to open a satellite campus.

The agreement signed Feb. 13 creates a new division of Heilongjiang College. Chinese students accepted into the Conestoga division will pursue a one-year English language studies program.

Continued on Page 2



## Tuition fees \$10,000

Continued from Page 1

Chinese students will pay approximately \$10,000 per year in tuition, compared to about \$1,800 for Canadian students. The greater fees will be used to invest in the college.

In the future Conestoga students will also be able to spend part of their program in China and as Tibbits plans for similar operations in Brazil, Mexico, South Korea and the Netherlands, it would be possible to go to two or three other countries and receive a diploma.

Conestoga is the third largest college for international students in the province, working with 300 foreign students annually.

## 'China has come a long way': Tibbits

People there are not living in fear of persecution every day

Continued from Page 1

Then the students will proceed into the first two years of study in business administration/ accounting or business administration/ management studies. Their final year of the program will take place at Doon campus.

"The Chinese are there and they are a world power," said Tibbits in an interview with Spoke. "You can ignore them, but I think you're better off to work with them. They have come a long way since being a police state in 1949."

Tibbits admitted there are things that the Chinese have difficulty handling, like the issue with the Falun Gong.

The deal comes on the heels of a report that over 100 practitioners of Falun Gong have died while in police custody.

Falun Gong is a form of qigong, incorporating Buddhist and Taoist principles, which aims to refine the mind and body through exercises and meditation. The spiritual movement, which is said to have 100 million members, 70 million in China alone, distinguishes itself from other qigong practices by emphasizing not only the physical, but also moral character.

The Chinese government calls the organization a cult with an evil political will, endangering Chinese society and people. To protect the basic human rights and freedom of the Chinese citizens, the government declared Falun Gong illegal. Its books and tapes were destroyed and its Web sites were jammed.

China's human rights record came under attack again Feb. 26 after the U.S. State Department annual report said the countries poor human rights record worsened in 2000.

The annual human rights reports said China's respect for religious freedom has deteriorated as the government cracked down on Christian groups and Tibetan Buddhists.

"We have this impression that China is some nasty country. There are worse countries in the world than China as far as human rights are concerned."

John Tibbits,

Conestoga College president

Human Rights in China said in a report the week of Feb. 26 – Mar. 2 that 260,000 people were in labour camps, 60 per cent of them for disturbing public order.

The Chinese government called for the complete elimination of the Falun Gong shortly after the report was released.

Despite recent developments in China, Tibbits said the events are not like apartheid in South Africa.

"That was a demonstrated separation of black and whites. China has come a long way. In 1949 it was along the lines of a Russian

communist state. It's far from that now."

China's human rights record has been the subject of international debate for decades. The issue was thrust to the forefront during the summer of 1989, when hundreds of thousands of students occupied Beijing's Tiananmen Square and demanded democratic reforms.

The Chinese government tolerated the protests for three weeks, but on June 3 tanks and soldiers rolled into the square. Reportedly thousands of people were killed and countless others were arrested or detained.

Although some Chinese are unhappy with the low standard of living, Tibbits said in general it is not a country where people are desperate to get out.

"It has 1.2 billion people. If there were problems that serious, there would be millions of Chinese trying to arrive here somehow."

Roughly 600 Chinese migrants were desperate enough to leave their homeland in the summer of 1999, landing off the coast of Vancouver in four decrepit boats and paying up to \$50,000 for their voyage.

"We have this impression that China is some nasty country. There are worse countries in the world than China as far as human rights are concerned," said Tibbits.

Tibbits said there are issues in China, but Canada has its own issues.

"In the '50s and '60s, Canadian students went to study in the U.S.

where there was a great deal of racism. We have problems in our own country with aboriginal rights. We're not sitting here pure as Little Bo Peep in this country."

Tibbits, who has been to China four times, said the 1.2 billion people living there are not living in fear of persecution on a daily basis.

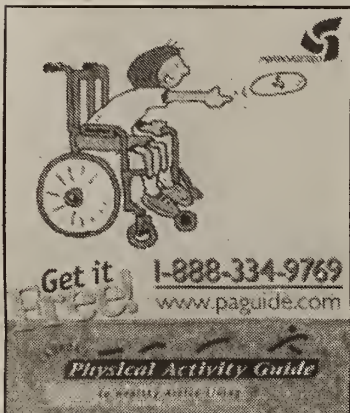
"There are some issues now with the Falun Gong so I would advise our students that if anyone is of that persuasion, I wouldn't run over there and study in that program. It's a complex issue," said Tibbits who added the more the Chinese people get exposed to western values and democracies, the more hope for change.

There are no outlining safety measures in place for Conestoga students protecting them from human rights violations when studying in China.

Students will be given an orientation as to the laws of the country, but Tibbits said as far as personal safety is concerned, students are safer in China than they are here.

"I wouldn't advise anyone here or there to stoke up some marijuana and certainly we will advise students of things they should not do. The (Chinese) government is not foolish and they don't want to have issues with Canadian students, unless the students are pushing the envelope."

Tibbits said he wouldn't advise people to go over there and challenge the political system or the fundamental premises of Chinese society because it would be asking for trouble, just like anywhere else.



# Conestoga College

## Quality Policy

*Conestoga College continually seeks opportunities for improvement to meet and exceed the needs of our students, employees and communities.*

**ISO 9001**  
Setting new standards.  
Conestoga College



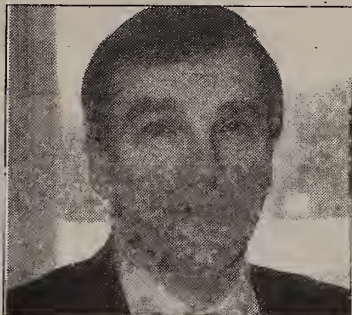
# KPIs not a ranking system

By Tammy Somerville

Conestoga ranks itself as the number 1 college in Ontario, so does Confederation College in Thunder Bay. Durham College in Oshawa ranks itself as number 1 in the GTA (greater Toronto area) and Loyalist College in Belleville is advertising itself as the number 1 small college in Ontario.

According to Tracy Boyer, executive director of the Ontario Community College Student Parliamentary Association (OCCSPA), a lobbying and networking group for full-time Ontario community college students, this practice goes against the guiding principles for release of KPI data which say "no ranking of colleges; rather show areas of strength and that performance is at acceptable levels."

"Some colleges are doing things like ranking themselves. Conestoga is saying it's number 1. This goes against the rules all colleges agreed to follow. Some are following them,



John Tibbits, president of Conestoga College, says he doesn't need to brag about being number 1.

but some haven't," said Boyer.

On Feb. 10, 1999, the Key Performance Indicator (KPI) Steering Committee approved 10 guiding principles for releasing KPI data which say "no ranking of colleges; rather show areas of strength and that performance is at acceptable levels."

KPIs are surveys used to establish benchmarks of excellence at

Ontario's colleges. Established two years ago by the Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities, KPIs are based on independent surveys completed by students, graduates and employers.

The framework for release of KPI data was presented to the general assembly meeting at the Association of Colleges of Applied Arts and Technology of Ontario (ACAATO) Conference Feb. 13, 1999 and was subsequently approved by the general assembly and former minister of Training, Colleges and Universities, Diane Cunningham.

Mike Harris, CSI vice-president of academics, said Conestoga College may pride itself because of its high KPI rankings, but a protocol was established by all colleges.

"The KPI process was not set up to rank colleges. Basically, it's every student government's responsibility to ensure that the KPI process is followed in a fair way," said Harris.

"We want the college to do very

well. Obviously there is funding, but we want honest opinions from the students."

John Tibbits, president of Conestoga College, said the ranking of colleges has been taking place for years.

"The truth of the matter is that all colleges are not the same. Do you really think Northern College is one of the best colleges?" said Tibbits.

**"The colleges shouldn't let KPIs divide them."**

*Tracy Boyer,  
executive director of OCCSPA*

Tibbits added even the local high schools are ranked unofficially.

"We rank the high schools, although we don't talk about it publicly. We know that if people come from such and such a high school, their mark is not worth as much as if they come from another high school."

Although the guidelines are just that and are not legislated, Boyer said they are based on integrity because all Ontario colleges agreed to them.

"OCCSPA wants to have colleges be accountable. We fought to have student governments involved in the process of KPIs," said Boyer, who added if students felt Conestoga ranking itself number 1 wasn't in the best interest of the college, the student union could address the college with their concerns.

Boyer said OCCSPA is trying to encourage students to be active in following the publication guidelines by not encouraging the colleges to set themselves up against each other.

"From our perspective, we encourage the student governments to keep the colleges accountable. Everyone in the college should be aware that they are breaking an agreement," said Boyer. "It doesn't look good on an institution to go against guidelines set out by all the institutions."

**Continued on Page 5**

**Get it Free!** 1-888-334-9769  
www.paguide.com

**Physical Activity Guide**  
to Healthy Active Living

## COUNSELLOR'S CORNER: GRIEF

You can't stop crying. You feel angry. You feel numb. These feelings are all normal reactions to loss in our lives -- a reaction we call grief. Grief does not only have to be a result of losing a loved one to death. We grieve any kind of loss: the breakup of a relationship, the loss of good health or even the loss of a dream to reach a certain goal. Although these feelings are natural, it sometimes helps to talk them over with a counsellor as part of the healing process. Writing your thoughts in a journal, reading books about grief, and talking to friends can also help. Most of all, give yourself permission to grieve. Feelings left bottled up will only come out later, delaying the healing process.

If you have a friend who is grieving, don't worry about saying the wrong thing to them. Just be there, be a good listener or remind them how much you care with a card, a hug or some time together.

*A Message from Student Services (Room 2B02)*



## Want to know more about government services for you?

- Looking for a new job
- Starting your own business
- Getting access to the Internet
- Taking parental leave
- Planning your retirement
- Making your home energy efficient

Learn more about the hundreds of services available. Call us and talk to an agent in person. Visit our Web site. Or drop by the Service Canada Access Centre nearest you.

1 800 O-Canada  
(1 800 622-6232)

TTY/TDD 1 800 465-7735

www.canada.gc.ca

**Canada**



## College and CSI unite to find common ground

Although the CSI has been asked to cease and desist in their student complaint form practices by the college, the college and the student union have come together to create a student complaint form process that will be accepted by both parties to ensure student concerns are heard.

This step is necessary for students at the college not only to ensure that their complaints are heard, but for students to feel that the college is taking their concerns seriously.

The student complaint forms came under fire after a full-page ad was run in the Jan. 8 edition of Spoke encouraging students to come to the CSI office to complete the forms when they feel they have been treated unfairly by the college or feel their rights have been violated.

The purpose of the forms is to give students the opportunity to voice their concerns to a member of the CSI academic subcommittee rather than someone employed by the college.

The Ontario Public Service Employee Union Local 237, which represents teachers and Local 238, representing support staff, both expressed concern with the CSI collecting information about faculty and employees at the college.

The CSI received a memo from the faculty union stating union members consider the complaint forms to be completely outside the existing process for settling disputes and appealing academic decisions and they could result in civil action against the CSI.

The memo said that the union would not tolerate third-party record keeping on faculty performance.

The support staff union met with the academic operations committee on Jan. 10 to express their concern that statements made by the CSI in the Spoke ad reflected badly on support staff at the college.

In response to the concerns raised by the two union locals, Conestoga College president John Tibbits and college management met with the CSI executive on Jan. 29. During the meeting, the CSI was told to cease and desist their complaint form practices.

In a letter to the student association on Feb. 1, signed by Tibbits, Tibbits told the CSI that their complaint process is outside the official college complaint/appeal process. In addition, the CSI, as well as the individual executive members, are liable for any content or advice given under the CSI complaint form process.

Although the CSI has been ordered to stop their complaint form process, the college has realized the importance of student complaints and has decided to work with the CSI to establish a formal complaint process.

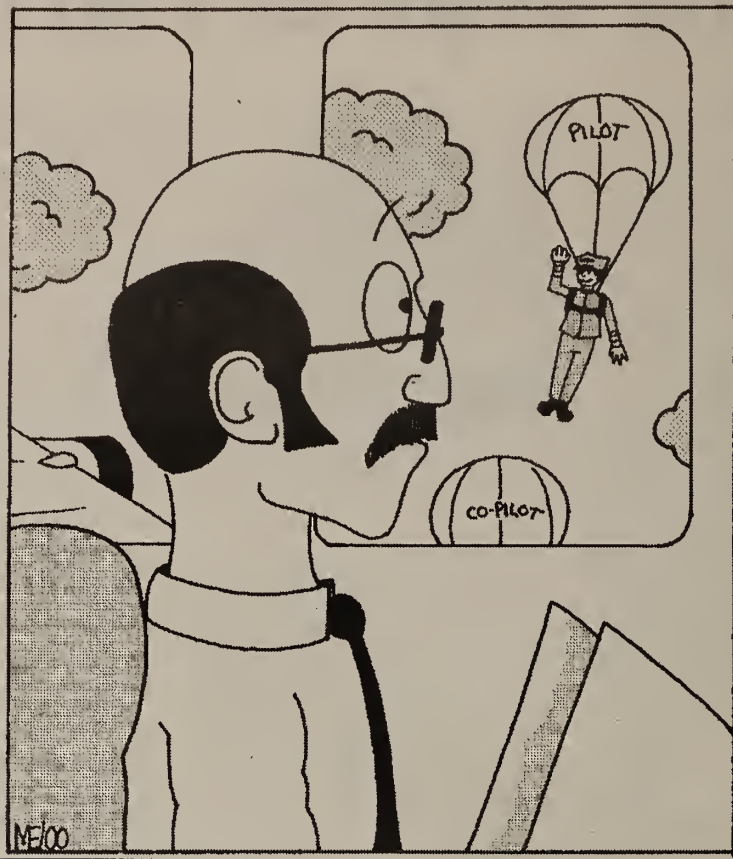
During a Feb. 22 meeting between members of the college and the CSI executive, a draft version of a college complaint form was discussed.

The college and the CSI executive are to be commended for coming together to work on a process that is not only important but also necessary for the student body. It is important that students have a way to voice their concerns to the college and to have these concerns dealt with in a reasonable amount of time.

In the past, there was no complaint process for students to use when dealing with problems involving college employees. Thanks to the efforts of the CSI and college management, it looks like students will now have the opportunity to voice their concerns in a way they feel comfortable and that the college is willing to address.

The CSI tried to address a valid concern by bringing in the complaint forms and hopefully both the CSI and the college will be able to work together to come up with a new complaint form process that will benefit all students.

You know it's a bad day when...



## More than a single mom

I am a single mother. That is how the world sees me. It doesn't see that I am smart, attractive, funny or adventurous and it pisses me off.

I don't get out much, but I went to a bar a couple of weeks ago. I was happy to run into a friend I haven't seen in almost six years.

I was bragging about school, my adventures and the love of my life, my son River, when my friend asked if I was still with the father. My response was no, but he is still involved in his son's life.

"Ooooh, you're a single mom. I'm sorry to hear that," my friend said.

What is that all about? A minute ago it was a happy reunion and now I'm a pity case.

I was interviewed for CKCO-TV because of a question I asked Industry Minister Brian Tobin when he visited Conestoga Nov. 7.

Later that night when I saw myself on the news, my fate as being known as a single mom was sealed. That is how I was identified; not as Tammy Somerville, or



Tammy Somerville

third-year journalism student, or adventurer.

"This single mother ..." That's me.

When I went to vote in the municipal elections I took my son with me. The kind, elderly woman who checked my name off the list asked if my husband would be in to vote. I do not have a ring on my left hand, but I guess because I have a child, therefore I must have a husband. When I informed her I am not married, she replied, "Oh, that's OK."

I appreciated the fact that this woman, who probably never heard the words single mother until she turned 80, thought it was okay for me to be single, but her presumption that I had a husband in the first place is what struck a chord.

I know I am a single mother. Why does every one have to keep reminding me?

Every time I write my name and my son's on some form I see that his last name is different. Every time I go to the park and see two parents frolicking with their offspring, I know my child will never have that.

Every other weekend I am reminded when my son's father comes to pick him up. Every birthday I am reminded, every Easter, every Halloween, every Christmas,

every New Year's, every damn day.

But, why does it matter? Why do I feel like I have failed my son, his father and myself? Why does society treat me like I am unfit, unworthy, unappreciated? Why is it my fault?

I was not some infatuated teenager with hormones in overdrive. I was a 26-year-old woman in love. I was not drunk or on drugs.

Yet, I have this stigma. Those two words conjure up negative connotations that no matter what I do, I can't shake.

I am the one my son lives with. I am the one who taught him to say please and thank you. I am the one who cuddles him when he's sick. I am the one who takes him to the library. I am the one who took him to get his first pair of skates. I am the one he builds snowmen with. I am the one who takes him to the Santa Claus parade, every year. I am the one who reads him a bedtime story, every night. I am the one who gives him his vitamin, every day. I am the one who took him to see Toy Story 2, five times. I am the one who taught him about butterflies, bees and birds. I am the first person he sees in the morning and the last one before he closes his eyes. I am the one. I am a single mother.

# SPOKE

Keeping Conestoga College connected

SPOKE is published and produced weekly by the journalism students of Conestoga College.

Editor: Dwight Irwin; Photo Editor: Kirsten Fifield; Production Manager: Kyla Rowntree

Advertising Manager: Jody Andruszkiewicz; Circulation Manager: Reni Nicholson

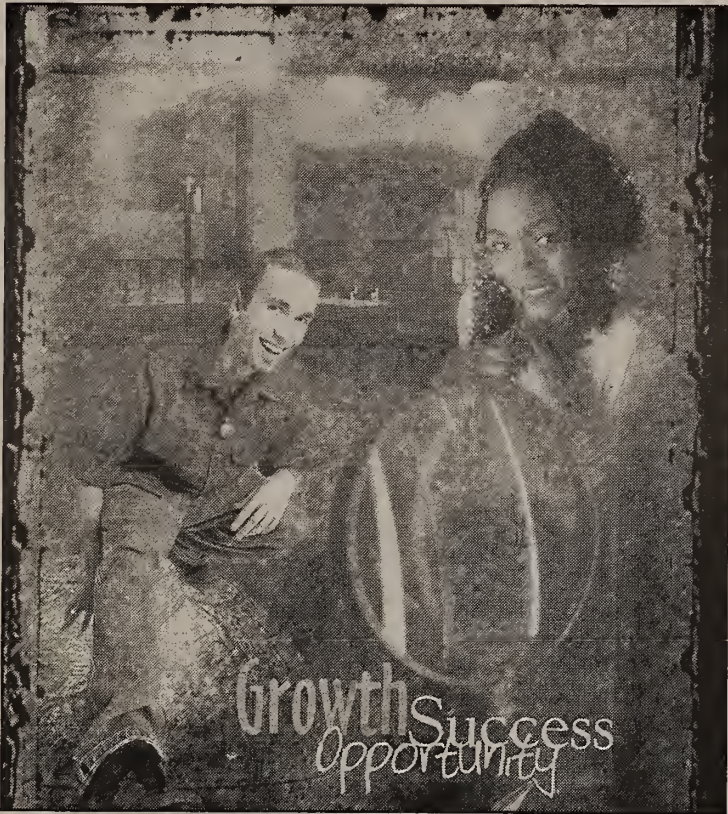
Faculty Adviser: Sharon Dietz; Faculty Supervisor: Christina Jonas

SPOKE's address is 299 Doon Valley Dr., Room 4B14, Kitchener, Ontario, N2G 4M4.

Phone: 748-5220, ext. 691, 692, 693, 694 Fax: 748-3534 E-mail: spoke@conestogac.on.ca

SPOKE is mainly funded from September to May by a payment from Conestoga Students Inc. (CSI) in exchange for the insertion of advertising in the paper. The views and opinions expressed in this newspaper do not necessarily reflect the views of Conestoga College or the CSI. Advertisers in SPOKE are not endorsed by the CSI unless their advertisements contain the CSI logo. SPOKE shall not be liable for any damages arising out of errors in advertising beyond the amount paid for the space. Unsolicited submissions must be sent to the editor by 9:30 a.m. Monday. Submissions are subject to acceptance or rejection and should be clearly written or typed; a WordPerfect or MS Word file would be helpful. Submissions must not contain any libellous statements and may be accompanied by an illustration (such as a photograph).





Krista Hack, a graphic designer at the college, designed the calendar series and plans to design the 2002/2003 graphic.

## Award-winning artwork and slogan tie college together

By Tammy Somerville

Conestoga College has won a Trillium Award from the College Committee for Advancement (CCA), in co-operation with the Association of Colleges of Applied Arts and Technology of Ontario (ACAATO), for its promotional artwork and bold slogan 'Growth, Success, Opportunity', introduced last summer.

Conestoga received its honour in the General Image category at the 16th annual Trillium Awards dinner and ceremony Feb. 17 at the Western Harbour Front Castle Hotel in Toronto.

The Trillium Awards were established in 1986 to recognize outstanding products by and for Ontario's community colleges.

Trilliums are given each year in conjunction with the annual meeting

and conference of the CCA, which is composed of alumni, development, public affairs and marketing professionals from these colleges.

ACAATO is Ontario's community college association, which aims to advance the college system through advocacy and communications, research and policy development and professional development activities.

The winning slogan and the design, which features vivid, warm colours and energetic young people, are the visual elements that tie together Conestoga's calendar, employment report, viewbook, program fact sheets, poster and the large display unit used at special events.

Krista Hack, a graphic designer at the college for the past year, designed the calendar series.

"I looked at some of the past pieces and I wanted to do some-

thing new and different. Something that people would take notice of," said Hack.

After designing three covers, Hack presented them to the student recruitment and admissions office who selected the award-winning one.

"I was surprised," said Hack who added the award is definitely a step ahead for her career.

Hack will be working on a new design for 2002/2003 in the near future.

According to a press release from the college's public affairs department, the judging panel, composed of design, advertising, communications and education professionals, indicated that Conestoga's approach provided "appealing and consistent design, with positive and strong words to convey a positive, young image."

## KPIs meant to show areas of strength not rank

Continued from Page 3

Harris said the college's KPI steering committee, where he sits as a student representative, is a partner with the college, helping to ensure the KPI process is followed in a fair way.

"On the task force we talked about how to promote KPIs, but we never agreed on the sign outside during the week students were filling out their surveys," said Harris, who is referring to the college's sign at the corner of Homer Watson and Doon Valley Drive which read "Conestoga students and graduates keep us number 1" between Feb. 5 and 9.

Harris called Jack Fletcher, director of student services and head of the KPI steering committee, and the message was taken down Feb. 9, only to be put back up again Feb. 12.

Tibbits said Conestoga College is proud to be number 1, but says it quietly, unlike Durham. The president of Durham College sent Tibbits their annual report ranking themselves number 1 in the GTA.

"This is classic," said Tibbits, referring to Durham's annual report. "You don't think they'd say they were number 1 in Ontario if they could? If he was smarter he wouldn't have sent that to me because I looked at it and said what the hell are they doing? Durham is about as far from Toronto as we are."

Tibbits said Conestoga ranks itself based on indisputable facts such as having the best job placement rate in the province.

"Everyone is doing it," said Tibbits, "except Centennial because they were what, 24th, or George Brown, which I think was 25th."

Harris doesn't have a concern about what other colleges are doing.

"I'm a student at Conestoga so ultimately that's where my concerns lie," said Harris.

Referring to instances where pressure from a college has led to low KPI rankings, Harris said he wants Conestoga students to be able to tell the college what they think without being influenced.

"We want to make sure that the college takes the results seriously and uses the results to build on strengths and improve weaknesses," said Harris. "The CSI wants KPIs used as an improvement tool and not a tool to create revenue."

Boyer said colleges are not looking out for the best interests of all Ontario colleges when they rank themselves.

"The colleges have always prided themselves in being able to work together and we should continue it that way. The colleges shouldn't let KPIs divide them," said Boyer.

Tibbits said most colleges were promoting B.S. in the past because they could get away with it, but with KPIs people have to be careful.

About three years ago, before KPIs were established, Sheridan College advertised it was Ontario's number 1 college in all the local newspapers, causing an uproar among college presidents.

Tibbits and the other presidents held a meeting to give the president of Sheridan feedback and criticize the advertisements.

"I said I don't care that you're advertising in our paper, that doesn't bother me. What bothers me is the lie. You're not the best college in Ontario. I know for a fact that your facilities are garbage, et cetera, et cetera," said Tibbits. "KPIs at least give you some sense. I make no apologies. The first year we were clearly number 1 and last year we were tied for number 1 with Confederation. Conestoga would be foolish not to promote. One day we may not be number 1 and we'll have to keep our mouths shut."



ARE YOU STRUGGLING TO GET THROUGH A COURSE?

DO YOU FEEL CONFIDENT ABOUT COURSE CONCEPTS?

WOULD YOU LIKE TO REVIEW SUBJECT MATERIAL?



**A TUTOR MAY HELP GET YOU ON TRACK BEFORE THE END OF THE SEMESTER**

**DON'T DELAY!!**

**ONE TO ONE TUTORS ARE CURRENTLY AVAILABLE IN MOST COURSES**

**\$15.00 PROVIDES 5 HOURS OF TUTORING**

**DEADLINE FOR APPLICATIONS IS APRIL 1, 2001**

**APPLICATIONS AVAILABLE IN ROOM 2B02**



# Staged accident a great learning tool

Continued from Page 1

The goal of the exercise is to give students "hands-on" experience based on the curriculum taught in law, investigations, interviewing and report writing.

The role-playing scenario simulates a real investigation that these law enforcement students will ultimately be involved in sometime in their working careers.

Part-time LASA teacher and event organizer Cameron Veitch said the students have studied the theory on the procedures for the past three months and the consolidation exercise was to turn that theory into hands-on experience.

The location and type of accident was not disclosed to the students.

"We made the students as unprepared as possible," said Veitch. "They had no idea what to expect so we had the students prepare for anything."

The staged accident occurred in the woodworking shop at 1:36 p.m. when scaffolding tumbled down on two students, killing one and injuring the other.

A witness used an emergency phone to call for help and within minutes students playing the roles of police officers, college security personnel and print and broadcast journalists arrived on the scene.

College employees including health and safety co-ordinator Kim Radigan also participated in the scenario.

The scene of the accident was riddled with pieces of scaffolding and the victims were lying in a pool of blood. Yellow police tape and security officers formed a barrier as the journalism and broadcast students pushed for questions about

the accident and pictures of the victims.

Students playing paramedics arrived to remove the injured victim on a stretcher. They took her for medical attention in an emergency room set up in the college's nursing wing.

The deceased victim lay on the ground as the students playing the police and coroner conducted their investigation and the students playing journalists took pictures.

Terri-Leigh Saunders, a second-year LASA student who played the deceased victim, said she laid on the ground for an hour and a half in the freezing cold.

"I was freezing laying there with the door wide open for so long," said Saunders. "It was very good, though. There were so many people and their skills being put to work. There were so many people at the scene of the accident, though and a lot of organizational skills were used to effectively take care of the situation."

Rachael Butcher, a second-year LASA student who played the distressed witness, said she had a lot of fun.

"It gave me a chance to ham this up a bit," said Butcher. "I learned a lot here today especially about the witness at the scene of an accident. The media was so annoying. They were constantly asking me all these questions over and over again."

Hubert Mark, a second-year LASA student who played the security supervisor at the scene, said this was an excellent learning experience for him.

"I now know I can handle myself really well when placed in that position," said Mark. "I was actual-



Paramedic students Melissa Klotzin and Kristen Gilmartin prepare to move victim Laureen Vickery from the accident scene.

(Photo by Reni Nicholson)

ly really proud of myself in the way I dealt with everything."

Alison Yeoman from the Waterloo regional police acted as a resource supervisor.

"This was very chaotic because there were too many people on the scene of the accident," said Yeoman. "In reality the media would've been off the site completely."

Yeoman said that making sure no scene contamination occurs is the first thing to do.

"These students learned that there is no formula at a scene like this,"

said Yeoman. "You have to go with what you've got. This was a great learning experience for everyone."

Douglas Henrich, a second-year LASA instructor, said he saw a lot of learning going on in the exercise.

"We provided these students with the element of realism," said Henrich. "You can read about it but you never know what it's going to be like until you actually do it. Overall it was a job well done."

Bill Stark and Gibson McIlwrath from the Ministry of Labour were also at the consolidation exercise

playing as resource people.

Stark said this was a great exercise to get the students to look deeper into how the accident happened. He said he kept prodding the students to look deeper and encouraged them to dig.

"I hope we were able to tweak something for them that they didn't see before," said Stark.

Veitch said the whole purpose of the exercise is to have the students make their mistakes in here and not out there.

"No other college runs an exercise at this magnitude," said Veitch.

## Candidates for CSI executive make pitch for student vote

By Kyla Rowntree

The candidates for executive of the Conestoga Students Incorporated presented their platforms during speeches in the Sanctuary on March 6.

Jessica Sperling, a third-year business management studies student, is running for the full-time position as president.

She has been the chair of the board of directors for the past two years.

Sperling said she wants to successfully build and maintain strong working relationships with everyone at Conestoga College.



Sperling

"I am a strong leader and I will help lead the CSI into a strong future," said Sperling. "The CSI exists for the students and I am here for the purpose of the students."

Enthusiasm, support, dedication and discipline are all components of being a good president, said Sperling.

"I believe I bring these qualities and will continue to demonstrate them between the students and the college," said Sperling.

Student rights were a main issue Olinski wants to deal with as president. He said that student rights affect all of us.

Whether the student union is doing enough to help the students deal with difficulties they have come across was a question asked by Olinski.

He feels he would be a good representative on behalf of the students involving student rights.

Olinski wants to make student complaint forms more available to students and he wants to see an e-mail messaging system used to inform students of upcoming events.

He outlined his work at the political level trying to modify OSAP rules so a greater portion of the student population is eligible to receive OSAP.

Jody Andruszkiewicz, a second-year journalism student, is running for the vice-president of academics for the CSI.

Andruszkiewicz started off his platform with the acronym ARS. It stands for accountability, responsibility and student's rights.



Olinski

"Teachers have the most entrusted and most sacred job in the world," said Andruszkiewicz. "They are here to educate us. We are paying their salaries. Therefore they have to be accountable towards us."

He said when teachers screw up in the classroom, they have to be held accountable. He talked about how teachers hold students accountable for late assignments, marks and attendance. He said teachers aren't held accountable for their mistakes.

"Students have responsibilities," he said. "Teachers always throw these responsibilities in our face. What about the responsibility of the educator that does not teach to the course outline? What about the responsibilities of the educator who marks improperly?"

Jainie Taylor, a first-year marketing student running for vice-president of communications and for the board



Andruszkiewicz



Taylor

of directors for the CSI, wants to make sure students are aware of all the events the CSI sponsors. She wants to update the posters more often, distribute more flyers and inform students of upcoming events on the radio.

Brad Blanchard, a first-year law and security student, is running for vice-president of activities.

Blanchard started off his platform by telling everyone that he has not put up posters because posters only tell what he has achieved and not what he can do for the college.

He said he always wants to be around to make the students' ideas reality. He added that he attends Conestoga College as well and that he wants to have as much fun as possible.

"We are here for a good time and not a long time," said Blanchard.

He asked that the students take this vote seriously and put their confidence in the person that they feel will best fill this position.

He finished by saying that he will get the job done.

Steve Coleman, a first-year marketing student, is running for vice-



Blanchard

president of activities as well. Coleman is the former vice-president of student affairs of the CSI. He is currently the CSI pub manager and web-page manager.

Coleman talked about the confidence that he has gained over the years he has worked with the CSI.

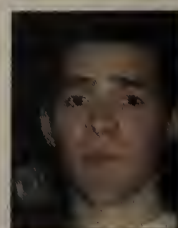
"I am someone who will always give you the best," said Coleman. "I am someone who will put his heart and soul into this job. I have the confidence, experience and dedication needed for this position."

Coleman expressed his dedication by explaining how he spent time over the spring break to make sure that everything was ready for the students when they returned.

Coleman outlined some of the events organized and planned by himself, like the movie nights and the bus trip to Fiddler's Green.

"I want to give you guys the best pub trips, brewery tours and the most amazing sporting events," said Coleman.

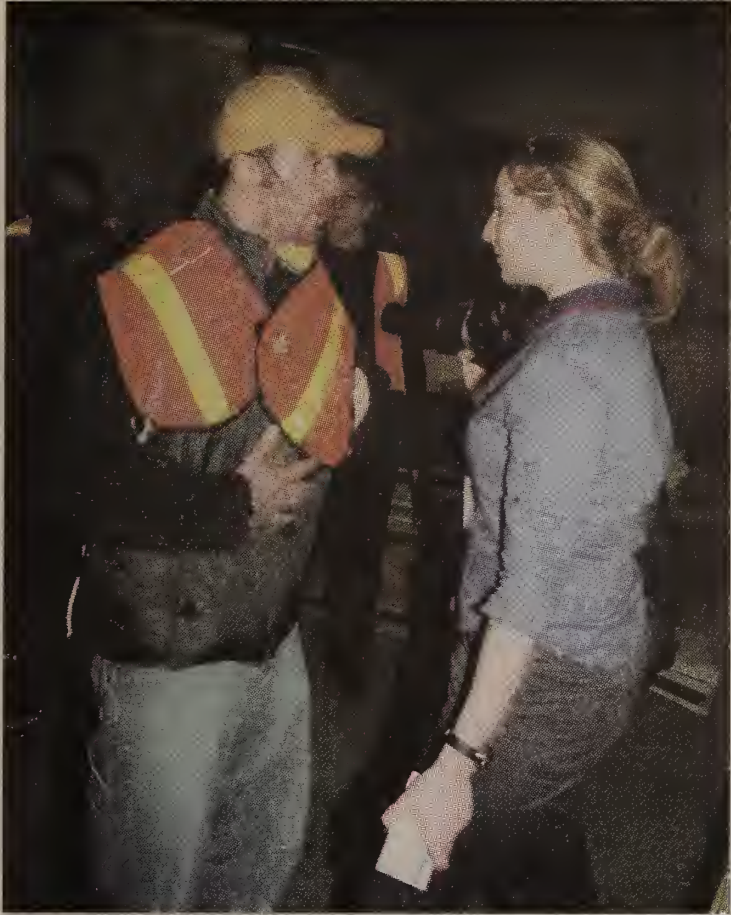
Voting takes place March 13 to 15 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at polling stations situated at Door 3 and Door 5.



Coleman



## Accident exercise puts students to the test



Above, second-year LASA student Chris Oates tries to get first-year journalism print and broadcast student Amy Fleming to move back behind the police tape.

Right, victim Lauren Vickery is removed from the woodworking centre.



Paramedic student Kristen Gilmartin works on the surviving victim at the accident scene.

**Photos by Spoke staff**



Terri-Leigh Saunders, a second-year LASA student, lays on the floor portraying a dead victim. She and her surroundings were covered in fake blood, after part of the scaffolding impaled her neck.



Above, second-year LASA student Mike Augustyniak makes some notes.

Right, second-year broadcasting students Sarah Fretz, left, and Sacha Larson record their story of the events outside the woodworking building.

Bottom right, Dr. Bob Mahood checks out victim Lauren Vickery while paramedics and nursing students help out. Below, Hubert Mark, a second-year LASA student, played the aggressive security guard who had to protect the scene where the accident took place.





## Mensink new business dean

### Former accounting teacher with college 16 years

By Michelle Goring

Frank Mensink, a business accounting teacher at Conestoga College for 16 years, said he will miss teaching now that he is the new dean of the School of Business.

"Even though I don't have any scheduled classes, I can fill in for teachers if needed so I'm not completely through with teaching," Mensink said.

Mensink began his post secondary education at the University of Waterloo where he obtained his bachelor of mathematics. After Waterloo, he worked with the chartered accounting firm Clarks and Gordon (now Ernest and Young) for the next 8 1/2 years.

While employed at the firm, Mensink spent two years at night school getting his Chartered Accountant (CA) designation, and then three years part time at Wilfrid Laurier University where he obtained his masters in business accounting.

While at Clarks and Gordon, Mensink became the senior manager of computer audits that included responsibility for all microcomput-

er consulting at the office and an audit staff that reported to him during public audits for large national firms.

"Even though I don't have any scheduled classes, I can fill in for teachers if needed."

*Frank Mensink,  
Dean of School of Business*

Mensink joined the business administration program at Conestoga College in 1985 and primarily taught third-year students his area of expertise, income tax. For the past seven years, Mensink has been the co-ordinator for the college's business administration accounting program.

An advantage Mensink believes he had over other applicants for the position was his 16 years experience in academics at the college.

"I have been in the trenches you might say," said Mensink. "I already know a lot of the student issues that involve faculty and I can

bring that perspective to this position as opposed to a situation where a professional administrator was hired that maybe hasn't gone through the academic side and they miss that side of business."

Mensink said he feels he had the support of the majority of the faculty within the school of business.

"The reason I believe that is because many people had come up to me encouraging me to take the position and feeling very positive about it."

One difference Mensink has noticed since becoming the dean of the school is now he deals with students from all the business programs and not just accounting.

"I like to think my door is always open. The intent is to have an open door policy so if students wanted to meet I think that I would be open to all contact."

"Having said that, students should first see their teacher or the co-ordinator of their program if having problems."

The philosophy Mensink hopes to follow in his new position is that students come first.

"It's our role as college administrators and college educators to

keep that in mind."

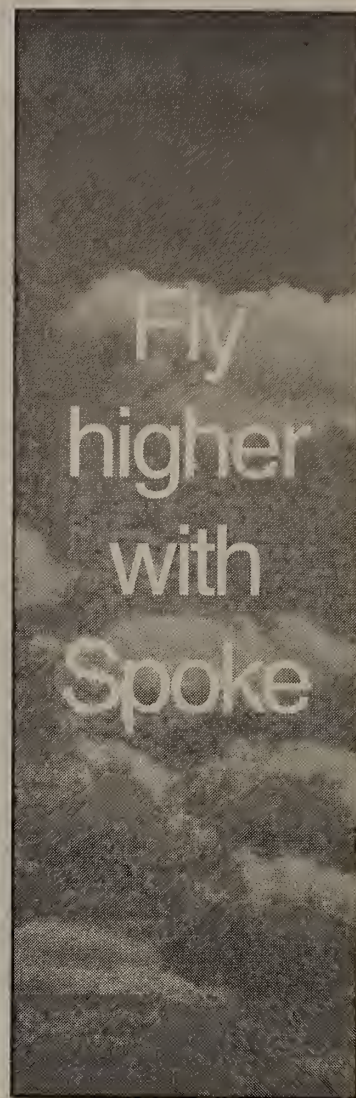
There have been things in the past that may not reflect that philosophy, but Mensink would like to think that the focus should be on the students.

"I have been in the trenches you might say. I already know a lot of the student issues that involve faculty and I can bring that perspective to this position."

*Frank Mensink,  
Dean of School of Business*

"The future will show that, for at least the School of Business, issues that involve students will have priority," Mensink said.

"I'm going to be learning as I go, so this semester probably won't be a good indicator because of the significant changes that are going on with me and others, but I hope that's what will occur in the future."



## CSI Annual Awards

### Criteria

**Certificate of Appreciation:** The recipients of this award are members of the college community whose contribution to college life has been significant.

**Award of Distinction:** The recipients of this award are members of the college community whose contribution to college life has been outstanding.

**Award of Excellence:** The highest award presented by the CSI in recognition and appreciation of outstanding leadership and involvement in college life.

**Nominate a fellow student, faculty member, staff member or college administrator whom you feel qualifies for one of the above awards.**

**Nomination forms are available at the CSI Office.  
Nomination Deadline: Wed. March 14<sup>th</sup>, 2001.**



## Firefighter program takes shape

By Derek Lester

The new pre-service firefighter program set to start this September at Conestoga College is starting to take shape.

The modified curriculum from Conestoga's pre-entry firefighter program at Conestoga went for approval to the Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities on March 5.

The modified curriculum includes a third semester, whereas the pre-entry firefighter program only had two semesters. The college intends to offer an advanced fire techniques and skills practice and a pre-graduate course called consolidation experience in this semester.

The second semester will include a new firefighter fitness course at the University of Waterloo, which students must pass to graduate.

The new firefighter program will be a certificate program at the college, rather than a diploma program.

The former firefighter program which is being discontinued was theory-based. The new program will have additional practical experience with assistance from the new partnership with area fire departments.

The college could not possibly afford to pay for a fire truck, firefighter apparel and training facilities, so the assistance from the Brantford, Cambridge, Guelph, Kitchener, Stratford and Waterloo fire departments and assistance from the firefighters in training students is needed, said Bill Jeffrey, dean of the school of health sciences and community services.

The pre-graduate will enable students to receive hands-on training from these fire departments to utilize tools they have learned in class.

Jeff Weber, program co-ordinator for the pre-service firefighter program, who is also a captain with the Kitchener fire department, said students will be able to go on a truck to fires, help with first response techniques, help with cleaning up and looking for people, but will not actually help put out the fire.

This will help the students become accustomed to all the confusion and fast-pace work of a firefighter, he added.

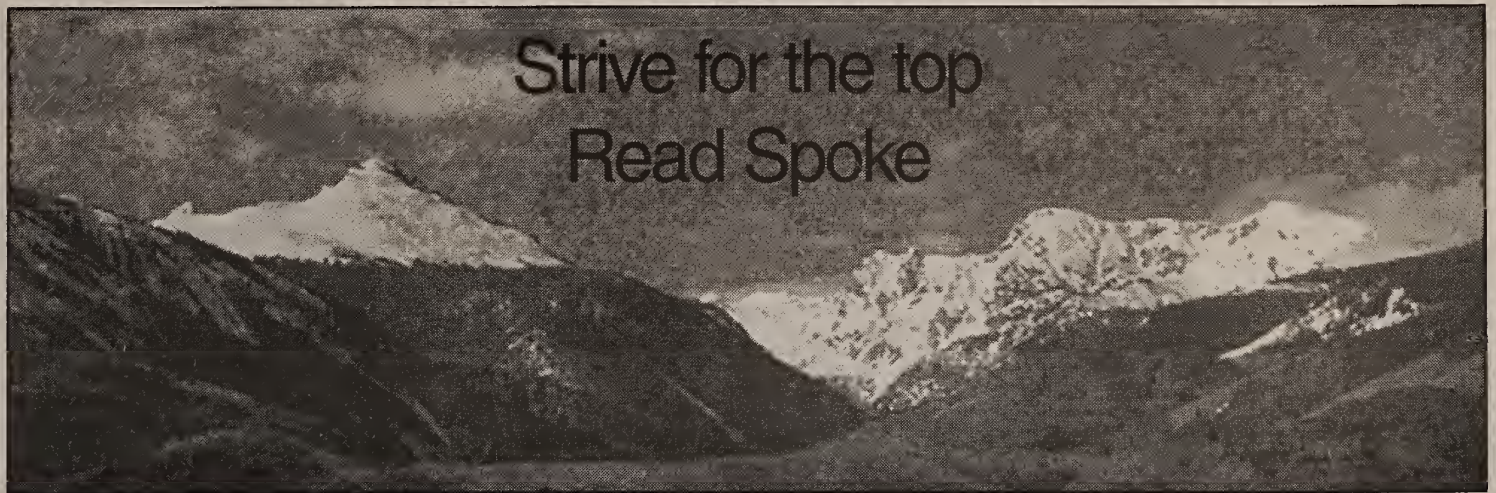
At the end of the three-semester program, students will have to write a provincial certified exam and perform a practice challenge exam to become a firefighter.

The college is going to offer the program to part-time students, mature students and volunteer firefighters.

Students currently in the pre-entry firefighter program will transfer into the new program and will have to complete all the curriculum changes. Currently a Grade 12 education to become a firefighter is required whereas Grade 8 was required previously.

Within two to three years, the college certificate will likely be mandatory to become a firefighter.

About nine other Ontario colleges are thinking about adding the pre-service firefighter program because higher requirements are expected.



## Leave Canada with a dream. Return with a vision.



**Live, learn and work abroad through the International Youth Programs.**

**For information on:**

- destinations
- work opportunities around the world
- how to apply

**contact the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade today:**

**[www.dfait-maeci.gc.ca/123go](http://www.dfait-maeci.gc.ca/123go)  
1 888 877-7098**



Department of Foreign Affairs  
and International Trade

Ministère des Affaires étrangères  
et du Commerce international

**Canada**



# Previews give away Sweet November's plot

By Sanja Musa

A warning to those who plan on watching the dramatic romance Sweet November.

Be prepared for a disappointment. There is not much left to see beyond the movie's previews.

The plot of the movie consists of a trial relationship between two people with completely opposite characters, Sara Deever (Charlize Theron) and Nelson Moss (Keanu Reeves).

He is a product of a modern society, a career-driven man who doesn't have time to stop and enjoy the little things that life offers.

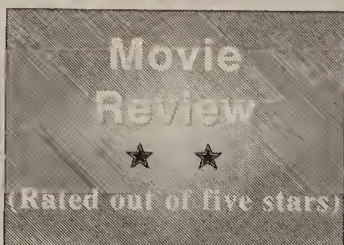
She is an enthusiastic, life-loving and open-minded person who wants to help Moss to become a better person in a month.

For reasons known only to her, Deever takes different men under her wing for a month and changes them completely.

Top-quality work by the main actors, Reeves and Theron, makes the movie interesting to watch.

The movie seems to be primarily made for romantic souls who should arm themselves with at least one pack of tissues before walking into a movie theatre to watch it.

However, it would not be sur-



prising if the audience, romantics or not, leave the movie theatres a little bit disappointed with the movie.

The advertisement of the movie is to blame for the disappointment.

There is hardly any touching, emotional scene in the movie that hasn't been revealed in the movie previews on the television screens.

It is ironic that while the movie shows Moss as an executive in an advertising company who doesn't hesitate to trick the television audience to sell products and to build his career, the advertisement of the movie itself tricks the audience into watching the movie by revealing too much in the previews and promising more than the movie has to offer.

Although the movie literally is not something that hasn't been already seen, it has been updated to

cover concerns and issues of today's society.

The remake of the 1968 movie with the same title starring Sandy Dennis and Anthony Newly has a subplot that carries messages such as finding balance between career and personal life, living life fully and refusing to judge people by their social status but accepting them for what they are inside.

Pat O'Connor, director of the movie who also directed Dancing of Lughnasa, Inventing the Abbotts and Circle of Friends, made a smart move by gathering a group of very good co-stars and giving each of them a role that would contribute to the emphasis of these messages in the best way possible.

For instance, brilliant work by co-star Greg Germann who in the movie plays a transvestite with a successful career, makes us wonder if we really judge people for what they are inside or for their status in society.

Although those romantic souls who plan on watching the movie will have plenty of opportunity to wipe away the tears in their eyes, they should not expect to see much more than they have already seen in the movie previews.

# Music to lay the smackdown by

By Paul Kostal

Before you stop reading because this is a review about a product from the World Wrestling Federation, let me just say that this is a decent album.

Now that that's out of the way, I can elaborate a little.

WWF the Music Volume 5 is, like its predecessors, a collection of entrance themes of some of its "superstars."

The disc is another example of ... media saturation.

Mostly highlighting the music of some of the newer talent in the federation, the disc also carries new tunes for wrestling veterans like Triple H and Kane.

For those who've never watched the WWF before, the music and the names will be unfamiliar, but listened to on its own, without the WWF name, the disc is still a decent collection of mostly rock songs.

Primarily instrumental, the disc will turn off those who favour strong lyrical content, as well as

those who shun the WWF logo like the plague.

The first track, The Game, performed by Motorhead, is Triple H's new entrance theme and a good indication of the hard rock songs that are to follow.

Track 4, It Just Feels Right, is probably the best song on the album and is reminiscent of something Godsmack or Finger 11 might release.

Other strong tracks include What About Me?, Shooter and I've Got It All.

This is not a perfect album, though.

Tracks like Rowdy and Bad Man seem like a waste of time and effort.

The disc is actually an enhanced CD so those with a computer and the desire can load a WWF Internet media browser into their hard-drive.

All in all, the disc is another example of the incredible media saturation practised by the modern WWF.

It is a good buy for fans of the WWF and those who like rock music in general, and with the added material, worth the \$15.

**www.beatgoeson.com**

1000'S OF CDs & DVDs  
ON-LINE OR IN-STORE

**The Beat Goes On™**  
**USED CD OUTLET**

370 HIGHLAND ROAD W., **KITCHENER** FOOD BASICS PLAZA 744-1011  
385 FAIRWAY ROAD S., **KITCHENER** CANADIAN TIRE PLAZA 893-2464  
402 KING STREET N., **WATERLOO** BETWEEN HARVEYS & BURGER KING 884-7376  
415 HESPELER ROAD, **CAMBRIDGE** ACROSS FROM McDONALD'S 622-7774

**"They say  
as you get older  
you become your  
mother."**

**"I hope to God it's not true."**

My mother is dying from Huntington disease. It's an inherited brain disorder that is slowly chipping away at her mind...her body...her soul.

if they develop the disease, then their children face those same fifty-fifty odds.

Just like my mother, I wanted to give the gift of life. What have I done instead?

It may take 10, 15 - even 25 - years before it finally kills her. And even then, the disease may not go to the grave with her.

But there is hope. Recent research breakthroughs have brought us closer than ever to finding a cure.

You see, once you develop Huntington disease, there's a 50 percent chance you will pass the gene responsible for Huntington's along to your children. And

With your support, we will beat this disease once and for all. Please call the Huntington Society of Canada today.

**We need your help**

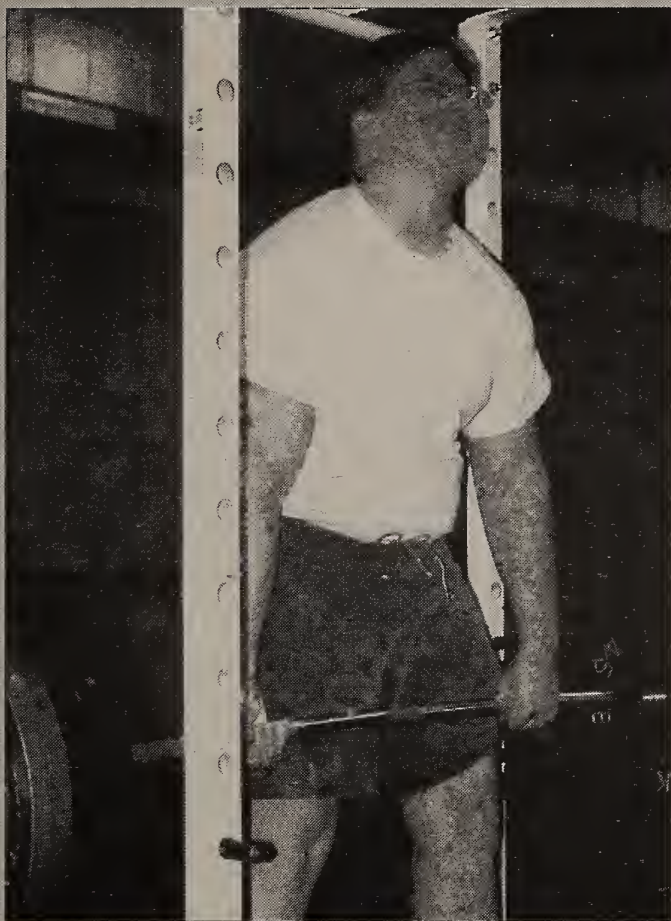
**Huntington Society of Canada**  
**HUNTINGTON**  
Société Huntington du Canada

**1-800-998-7398**

Charitable Registration Number 11896 5516 RR0001



## Pumping iron



Eric Zlatic, a second-year automotive manufacturing student, lifts 268 kilograms in the weight room at the rec centre Feb. 20. Zlatic has been weight training for three years as a hobby and for strength training. (Photo by Tammy Somerville)

# Rec centre bar offers new way to get buzz

By Derek Lester

Conestoga College's new bar at Doon's recreation centre will have a 7.2 metre (24 feet) high rock-climbing wall for people to use while in the bar.

The new bar, which will be named by a student, is hoping to open March 9.

Tony Martin, development manager for athletics and the recreation centre, said the seating capacity for the bar will be 177 people whereas the Condor Roost's seating capacity was about 40-50 people.

The new bar will have one television and eight speakers for music.

Martin is hoping to have the patio that faces the campus licensed for the summer giving people the option to have a drink outside.

He said there is also a possibility that the new bar might have a karaoke night occasionally and maybe even some small bands could have a chance to perform some nights.

It will also have a pool table and a ping-pong table, and possibly a new menu, said Martin.

He also added that the new pub will be more user-friendly, accessible to students and more visible.



Tony Martin, development manager for athletics and the recreation centre, shows first-year mechanical engineering student Justin Hayward how Conestoga's new pub will fit in the concourse on the second floor at the rec centre. Martin said the conceptual drawings will be on display at the rec centre in a week or two. (Photo by Derek Lester)

Just beside the bar, a 1.95 metre (six feet six inch) wide track that would fit two people side by side is going to be built around the top part of the gymnasium just above the seating area at a cost of \$23,000, he added.

A third floor will also be constructed above the former location of the Condor Roost. This will be the new home for the weight room. Martin said approximately \$60,000 of new equipment and renovations will be made to this new addition.


Win Canadian stuff instantly\* at [sympatico.ca](http://sympatico.ca)

The Great Canadian  
**CLICK to WIN**  
Contest

It's simple. Just go to [www.sympatico.ca](http://www.sympatico.ca) and click on the "Click to Win" button. You could win an **all-new 2002 Buick Rendezvous SUV** and \$35,000 worth of gift certificates for great Canadian prizes or one of over 1,000 other cool prizes. Enter daily!

[www.Sympatico.ca](http://www.Sympatico.ca)

In partnership with **LYC 'S**

The search engine for Canadians.

A DIVISION OF **Bell Globemedia**

Sympatico is a registered trade-mark of Bell Actimedia Inc., used under license. Lycos is a registered trade-mark of Carnegie Mellon University, used under license. \*Skill-testing question required. No purchase necessary. See [www.sympatico.ca](http://www.sympatico.ca) for Official Contest Rules. \*\*Grand Prize: 2002 Buick Rendezvous (retail value, \$34,999) and gift certificates (total retail value, \$35,000). Secondary prizes: 1,059 prizes available (total value, \$28,479). Bonus Draw prize: Investment portfolio (value \$10,000). The Buick Rendezvous will not be available in dealerships until June 2001.



# Results are in for the rec centre

## Only 2.2 per cent replied to 8,500 surveys distributed around school

By Derek Lester

The results of the recreation centre's survey at Conestoga College have been tallied and three students won prizes for completing the survey.

Three names were randomly drawn on Feb. 22 from the 191 students, faculty and employees at the college who completed surveys.

Heather Craig won a bar fridge compliments of Molson Breweries. Jeff Foster won a varsity jacket and Nicole Cardwell won a quartz wooden desk clock.

The rec centre distributed 8,500 copies of the survey and received a 2.2 per cent reply.

Tony Martin, development manager for athletics and the recreation centre, said a two per cent reply is a normal response to a survey, so he is happy.

The survey was distributed to determine what facilities people use at the rec centre and what improvement they would like to see.

Of the 191 respondents to the survey, 122 people use, or plan to use,

the fitness area for cardio or weights and 69 people use, or plan to use, the squash courts. Ice hockey ranked last with 21 people participating, or planning to participate.

Suggestions were submitted on the survey and 22 people want an aerobics/fitness class. Fourteen people suggested the rec centre add a swimming pool.

Martin said unfortunately the college will not be getting a swimming pool even though there has been a big interest in one for some time because it is too expensive and more employees would have to be hired to help with the upkeep of it.

Volleyball was the top choice for the varsity program people want with 67 people wanting it and 61 people want basketball. Curling ranked last with 18 people wanting it.

Suggestions for new varsity sports were submitted and 12 people want a wrestling team. Five people suggested starting a tennis team.

The top three choices for services

people would like to have at the rec centre were a 3.6 metre by three metre (12 feet by 10 feet) swim spa, with 102 people wanting it. Ninety-eight people want a sports bar with food and 67 people want personal trainers.

Suggestions for new services were submitted as well and 19 people want a swimming pool, 16 people want an aerobics/fitness class and 10 people want a masseur/masseuse.

**Eighty-five people rated customer service at the rec centre as good, 55 people rated it excellent ... 30 people did not rate it.**

People were asked about the quality of service at the rec centre on the survey and 93 people rated it good, 48 people rated it excellent, 16 people rated it fair, four people

rated it poor and 29 people did not rate it.

The hours the rec centre is open were rated and 78 people rated the hours as good, 38 people rated them fair, 31 people rated them excellent, 13 people rated them poor and 30 people did not rate them.

Customer service at the rec centre was rated and 85 people rated it good, 55 people rated it excellent, 16 people rated it fair, four people rated it poor and 30 people did not rate it.

The variety of activities was rated and 71 people rated it good, 53 people rated it fair, 18 people rated it excellent, 17 people rated it poor and 31 people did not rate it.

Seventy-one people also rated the rec centre's ability to meet their needs as good, 54 people rated it fair, 17 people rated it poor, 14 people rated it excellent and 34 people did not rate it.

The quality of equipment was rated and 78 people rated it good, 45 people rated it fair, 22 people rated it poor, 10 people rated it excellent and 34 people did not

rate it.

Satisfaction with the programs offered at the rec centre was rated and 76 people rated it good, 33 people rated it fair, 31 people rated it excellent, nine people rated it poor and 41 people did not rate it.

Seventy-eight people rated their satisfaction with the rec centre's equipment as good, 47 people rated it fair, 20 people rated it poor, 11 people rated it excellent and 34 people did not rate it.

Seventy-one people rated the cleanliness of the rec centre as excellent, and another 71 people rated it good, 16 people rated it fair, two people rated it poor and 30 people did not rate it.

Of all the people surveyed, 73 use the rec centre two to three times per week, 52 use it occasionally, 20 use it once per week, seven use it once per month, 23 checked the box beside "other" and 15 did not say how often they use the rec centre.

The rec centre advisory committee is to consider the results of the survey and discuss it at its next meeting on March 22.

# CHECK THIS OUT!

## CCAA MEN'S HOCKEY CHAMPIONSHIPS

March 14 - 17, 2001

at the Conestoga College Recreation Centre

Game #1 March 14 — 7:30 pm

Game #2 March 15 — 7:30 pm

Game #3 March 16 — 7:30 pm

Gold Medal Game  
March 17 — 2:00 pm

**COME CHEER ON THE CONDORS!**

